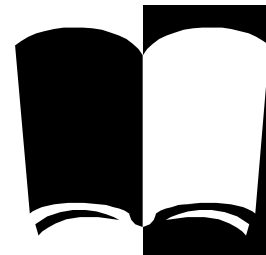


It Out

Crete Public Library Newsletter



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**February is
Library Lover's Month.**



Let us know what you love about
Crete Public Library. Go to
www.facebook.com/crete.ne.library

What are you doing? by Maridza Vasquez

I feel that those of us who are pet owners share a special bond that only pet owners can share. It's the bond of knowing how it feels to buy a brand new pair of shoes, which you had to negotiate with yourself to buy because they were kind of expensive and you haven't even had the chance to wear them; but your dog got to them first and thought they looked like a nice chew toy and tore them up. Or how your cat decides that the toilet paper roll is just too soft and fluffy so she needs to shred the entire roll to eliminate competition. Or how every time you visit your husband's aunt, her rooster decides he needs to assault your car because you have bad taste. Or no matter how many times you yell "NO! STOP THAT!" your pets understand that you probably meant this just wasn't a good time and they should continue their project later. These are the things that we think could never happen to us when we bring our new pets home, but of course, they always do. Fortunately, our pets know how to be irresistibly adorable and get back in our good graces.

These are the types of stories that inspired author Francesco Marciuliano to put together a collection of poems from the view points of our pets: *I Could Pee on This: and Other Poems by Cats* and *I Could Chew on This: and Other Poems by Dogs*. These poems will not only have you laughing hysterically, but I guarantee that you will be gushing at all the adorable photos as well. Also, February 20 is Love Your Pet Day, which would be a great opportunity to show your pet how much you care about them. Maybe you could take them for a walk, give them a special treat, read a book to them, or in my case, take them to the vet. Whatever you decide, just let your pet know that you love them no matter how annoying they may be. Below is an excerpt from *I Could Pee on This*.

Elegy For a Toy I Broke

You no longer jingle
You no longer roll
You no longer do anything
Since I had to see what made you work
I can't deal with all this guilt
I can't express my deep, deep grief
I can't believe what a cheap piece of junk you were
Seriously, I hardly touched you before you broke



Calendar of Events

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Preschool Story Time
February 5 - Shapes
February 12 - Valentines
February 19 - Teeth
February 26 - Birds



Stephanie Grace Whitson, Nebraska author of more than 20 books, will be our guest speaker on Friday, April 17, 11:00 a.m. This event will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 8th & Hawthorne. For more information, please contact the library.



Love Letters

by **Laura Renker**

Because my favorite book of all time is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, I'm accused of being a romantic at heart. I can't really say, but I do love a happy ending. February is a wonderland for romantics of all ages. It's the time of year one can legitimately talk about love letters, romantic comedies and opposites attracting without being harassed by cynics.

"Fevered notes scribbled on napkins after first dates. Titillating text messages." If peeking at other people's letters sounds like secret fun, read *Other People's Love Letters: 150 Letters You Were Never Meant to See* edited by Bill Shapiro. Found in attics, closets, memento boxes, these are actual letters and notes full of love, guilt and a whole range of emotions. They are written by people in love and in heartache. Some are letters in their entirety and some are just snippets or portions. Here's a sample:

"I love that you
sent me an actual
letter.
I can feel your
hand on the pen,
pressing firmly
on the paper.
Did you moisten the
envelope with your
lips?"



Valentine gift ideas:

"Nuts" about you keychain (nuts/bolts) handyman
Major scale musical wine glasses (music lovers)
Anatomical heart pendant (medical personnel)
Bicycle shaped pizza cutter (bicycle enthusiast)
Horseshoe heart trivet (horse lovers)
Elephant bookends (elephant book lovers)



Apparently, opposites really can be attracted to each other. *Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman shares the story of how Charles Darwin and Emma Wedgwood struggled with the dilemma of her religious beliefs and his revolutionary ideas. And yet, they made a successful marriage of science and religion. Jonathan Weiner says, "Reading *Charles and Emma*, one feels that their love story was one of the most significant adventures and greatest masterpieces of Darwin's life."

For an intriguing and poignant story about love and how it can transform the most grim of realities into something beautiful, read *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. The author takes you from metropolitan New York to a small village in Burma where Julie Win tries to unravel the mystery of her father's disappearance and past life. *Well-Tempered Heart* is the sequel to Sendker's first novel. This book, too, is about the human heart and its capacity to love.

One more book that speaks of love: *The Last Letter From Your Lover* by Jojo Moyes. "I'll be on Platform 4 Paddington at 7:15 on Monday evening, and there is nothing in the world that would make me happier than if you found the courage to come with me. I'll be waiting on the platform from a quarter to seven. Know that you hold my heart, my hopes, in your hands. Your B" Okay, how can you pass up a book with a note like that in it? Unfortunately, Jennifer Stirling wakes up in the hospital and can't remember a thing. It's 1960. Fast forward to 2003 when journalist Ellie Haworth finds this hand-written plea. She must find out what happened to these two lovers. Don't you want to find out?

Of course, everybody needs a romantic movie for Valentine's Day. We have three movies that all have an element of writing (letters or emails) from the heart. Two classics are *Sleepless in Seattle* and *You've Got Mail* both starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. The other movie is *Letters to Juliet* starring Amanda Seyfried and Christopher Egan. An aspiring writer, Sophie, finds a fifty year old letter that will change her life forever. She sets off on a journey with the author of the letter, Claire, and her handsome grandson—is there any other kind of grandson?

Blind Date with a Book

by **Susan Church**

I've heard enough horror stories that I'm grateful to have never gone on a blind date. But there are also those few that hit the jackpot with a blind date. That's what you'll get if you take a blind date book from the library! The jackpot not the horror story.

On the Blind Date display, you will find both regular and large print books in a plain brown wrapper. The books fall into one of nine genres: romance, crime/detective, historical, mystery, cozy mystery, humor, contemporary, western, Christian fiction and graphic novel. They will not, however, be marked (other than regular or large print).

So...if you're feeling adventurous, check one of these out; but no unwrapping until you're home! With the book you'll find a "Rate Your Date" bookmark. Fill out the bookmark and return it when you return your book and you'll have a chance of winning a prize! Whether the date is a dud or an out-of-the-ballpark hit, we want to hear the juicy details.

Speaking of details, how many of you have fallen into that black hole that is called Pinterest? But oh the fun of that black hole! The Library will soon have their own Pinterest page, loaded with things like staff picks, craft ideas, book trailers, before they were movies and literary quotes. Watch for an announcement soon. Yet another reminder, if you haven't "liked" the library on Facebook, now is the time! www.facebook.com/crete.ne.library.

LWR on the Prairie; Goat Apologist by Lindsey Weber Riskowski

People who rear goats (goatherds) are over-enthusiastic, pedantic, odd, even cultish; carpet-bombing innocent bystanders with pontifications on goat milk, goat meat, goat fiber, and the merit of goat poo. It is unbearable. But, strap in! Today I am that person. Today, I am THE GOAT APOLOGIST.

The lowly status of the goat as tin-can-eating, sin-depository Satanists has been mostly mitigated by an enlightened onslaught of artisanal cheeses. Yet goat meat, and most other goat products, are still cultural “others” in America. Reduced to strange meaty lumps floating in foreign curries or the peculiar milk that yurt-dwelling hipsters feed their babies. Goat is, however, the most widely consumed meat in the world. In the United States goat has been gaining yuppie traction for years. New York Magazine declared goat meat a “trendlet” back in 2008. A “trendlet”, by the way, sounds delicious. Goat milk contains less lactose, and is more easily digested. There are a plethora of reasons to rear goats. So, despite the family’s nose-wrinkling, my husband and I decided to herald in an epoch of goat-y-ness. That doesn’t mean we have any idea of how to raise or care for a heard.

Luckily Lisa, the benevolent and ridiculously helpful Director here at the Crete Public Library, found a slew of books with the practical knowledge of a crazed goatherd. We found plans for constructing a milking barn and stanchions and information on feeding, vaccinating, milking, butchering, and kidding goats. Each book also contains a glossary of terms and rather horrifying chapters on castration. Castrated goats, called wethers, are wonderful eunuchs to have! They can pull things, pack things, and keep your lady goats company—but not, you know *company*—which is probably why there is a list a mile long of castration methods. The most “humane” way of castrating a goat is to crush the spermatic cord leading to the scrotal sack. This is accomplished with the horrifying (but aptly) named EMASCULATOR. Dr. Julius No would kill to get his hands on that. It gets worse. I would recommend that if you are male, you NEVER Google the terms “banding” and “castration” at the same time. The worst part of castration is the fondness with which my farmer neighbors talk about erstwhile testes. The tinniest, oldest, most prudish ladies discuss the nuances of emasculating animals with unbridled joy. My own Aunt Mavis fondly recounted tales of geldings-gone-wrong, giving me nightmares for weeks.

I haven’t been forcibly ruminating on just male goat anatomy, either. I joined a Facebook group run by veterinarians for goat owners. We can post pictures to the wall with accompanying questions. My newsfeed is now choked with upsetting, grainy, cellphone photos of goat anatomy. I dread logging in. I know more about goat parts than people parts. But life on the prairie means having a stomach tough enough to digest tin cans.

And just look at my little guy! Worth it!

If you would like information on goats and goatherding you can check out

- *How to Build Animal Housing* by Carol Ekarius

- *How to Raise Goats; Everything You Need to Know* by Carol A. Amundson

- *Raising Goats Naturally; The Complete Guide to Milk, Meat, and More* by Deborah Nieman



Spring Dreaming

by Lisa Olivigni



My first gardening catalog arrived last week. Perfect timing! I poured over it during our recent snowy weekend. This year, I hope to plant more Nebraska wildflowers, so I’ve been investigating which types love this end of the state and aren’t too invasive. Growing up in western Nebraska, our hills were always covered with purple and blue spiderwort throughout the spring and summer. This is a very pretty and rugged plant. I’m hoping to introduce it to my backyard this spring. If you’re looking forward to spring as much as I am, we have many books on hand to help with a variety of gardening projects. From flowers to vegetables and pesky animal visitors, you can find that information here.

Anyone else besides me counting down to spring?

Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers by Douglas Ladd

Nebraska Wild Flowers by Robert Lommasson

Prairie-Style Gardens by Lynn Steiner

The Edible Front Yard by Ivette Soler

Making the Most of Shade by Larry Hodgson

Vertical Gardening by Derek Fell

Gardening in Nebraska by Melinda Myers

100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants by Lorraine Johnson

50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants by Ruth Clausen

The Wildlife Gardener’s Guide by Janet Marinelli

Birds in Your Backyard by Robert Dolezal

Hummingbirds and Butterflies by Bill Thompson

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CRETE, NEBRASKA 68333
402-826-3809

Library Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - Closed

Please call us for information about story times,
or check out our web site at
www.crete-ne.gov/library

The Library
will be closed
Monday, February 16
in observance of
Presidents' Day.



A Spring in the Desert

by Courtney Bashore

I recently came across a quote from Andrew Carnegie which states, "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." Andrew Carnegie is a well-known philanthropist who contributed money to various recipients during the 19th and 20th centuries in order to help make the United States a better, more educated and cultured place. Among his charitable donations were the Carnegie libraries. These were libraries built almost exclusively on his donations. There are over 2,500 globally with a majority of them located in the United States. By the 1920s, he had donated and granted money to help with the construction and operation of over 3,500 libraries in the United States.

Crete Public Library is fortunate to have benefitted from a Carnegie donation. His quote about libraries being optimal for a community's growth and success rings very true. Every library is important to the community in which it exists, as it provides a huge amount of educational resources and sources of entertainment for local residents that is unmatched by any other service in any community.

This library, like Carnegie's other libraries and even other libraries across the world, is truly an oasis of knowledge and education. Wanting to obtain a degree in Library Science in the near future, I experience many people telling me that libraries are becoming superfluous. Now that I have the insight from Andrew Carnegie helping fuel my passion for libraries everywhere, I am more confident in telling those doubters how important libraries really are. Even if every text publication is in exclusively digital format, libraries will still serve a purpose in helping communities grow and succeed by maintaining a large collection of informative and entertaining literature. Thus far, people have not been able to live without books of some kind, and I am optimistic that will remain a fact for centuries to come.

Bookshelves & Beyond
Crete Public Library & Founded 1878